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NATIVE LIFE.

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NATIVE LIFE

Bulletin of The Society
of
Friends of Our Native
Wild Life

Published Bi-monthly by the Society

VOL. I NO. 1

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HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF OUR NATIVE WILD LIFE : : :

A number of persons of Bismarck, North Dakota, together with Mr. Vernon Bailey, of the United States Biological Survey, had been considering the project of an organization which should bring together those interested in the things of the great outdoors, for exchange of ideas, and for aggregation of strength towards the accomplishment of desired purposes. So on the evening of November 24, 1919, the following seven persons met in the office of the Oscar H. Will Seed Company and organized a society with the purposes before mentioned. The original seven were George F. Will, Russell Reid, Edwin Carlson, Hugo Carlson, Lester Vetter, Cecil Burton, and Melvin R. Gilmore.

The field of interest and study was intended to include both plant and animal life native to this country. The name, Society of Friends of Our Native Wild Life, was chosen at the suggestion of Dr. Gilmore. The stated meetings of the society are on the first Thursday evening of each month. Other meetings may be held on special occasions.

The society aims to work for the intelligent conservation and protection of all native wild life, of birds, of mammals, and of trees and flowers and all scenic beauty spots.

A collection of photographs and of lantern slides is being made bearing on the subjects of interest to the society. Also a collection of specimens of native mammals and of native birds, is being made for study by the members. A collection of the native flora is also being made. An alcove is maintained in the Bismarck city library where may be found nature books and magazines upon the native floral and faunal life. The society offers its benefits and privileges to all persons who may be interested in its purpose, whether they be members or not, but earnestly invites the membership of all persons who desire to associate themselves with its endeavors.

ROSTER OF OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

The present officers of The Friends of Our Native Wild Life are the following:

Bertha Burton, president; Bruce Wallace, vice-president; Russell Reid, secretary; Margaret Welch, treasurer. The Council is composed of the above named officers, together with the following additional members:

George F. Will, Melvin R. Gilmore and J. M. Martin

Mr. Vernon Bailey, Chief Field Naturalist of the U. S. Biological Survey; Dr. George Bird Grinnell, of New York, and Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey, of Washington, D. C., are honorary members of the council.

THE THINGS I PRIZE

These are the things I prize
And hold of deepest worth;
Light of the sapphire skies,
Peace of the silent hills,
Shelter of the forest, comfort of the grass,
Shadows of the clouds that swiftly pass,
Music of the birds, murmur of little rills,
And after showers,
The smell of flowers,
And of the good brown earth—
And best of all along the way,
Friendship and mirth.

——Henry Van Dyke.

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A NATIVE AMERICAN DINNER

The monthly meeting of the Society of Friends of Our Native Wild Life on November 9, 1920, took the form of a dinner. The menu was exclusively native to the New World. The items were for the cereal part corn in the form of muffins and wild rice as dressing for the fowl. The meat was turkey and wild duck. For vegetables there were baked potato, baked squash and succotash. Of jellies there were wild plum, wild grape, buffaloberry, choke-cherry and pembina. A sweet was provided in the form of maple sirup.

The beverage was chocolate. For dessert there were Concord grapes and pecans.

The table talk was upon the origin and development of the cultivated articles of the menu, and the possibilities of the uncultivated articles. Mr. George F. Will spoke on the subject of some varieties of corn, beans and squashes which have been introduced into the agricultural and horticultural channels of trade in recent years from the stock of the same cultivated from time immemorial by the Mandans and the Arikaras, the two most noted agricultural tribes of Indians of the upper Missouri River. In times long prior to the coming of the white men, the Mandans and Arikaras were noted as farmers and as merchants of their surplus farm products in trade with the non-agricultural tribes of the non-arable lands of the high plains and mountains to the west. From the non-agricultural tribes the Mandans and Arikaras received in exchange for their agricultural products the animal products and wild plant products brought in by the people of the plains and mountains. And after the coming of the white men as trappers and traders they also became customers of the Mandans and Arikaras for their surplus farm products.

Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore told of the origin and development of corn, beans, squashes and pumpkins by the Indians of Mexico by their cultivation and selective breeding from the wild ancestors of these species of plants in that country. He also told of the use and cultivation of chocolate by the ancient Mexicans. It is to the ancient Peruvians that we owe the domestication, culture and improvement of the potato.

The making of maple sirup was originally learned by white men from the Indians of the eastern woodland region of Canada and the United States.

The turkey was domesticated in Mexico and Arizona long before the coming of white men to America. From Mexico it was introduced into Europe.

Dr. Gilmore told of the origin of some varieties of cultivated grapes and plums from the native wild stock of America. In particular he gave briefly the history of the development of the Concord grape at Concord, Massachusetts, by cultivation and selection from native wild grapes growing near that village. He told also of the selection and cultivation given to pecans within only about twenty years past. He urged the possibilities, at present unknown, in the cultivation of many other species of our native fruits.

The menu was as follows:

Succotash Baked Squash Baked Potato
Roast Turkey
Roast Wild Duck with Wild Rice Dressing
Assortment of Jellies from Native Wild Fruits
(Wild Plum, Wild Grape, Buffalo-Berry, Pembina, Chokecherry)
Corn Muffins Maple Sirup
Chocolate
Concord Grapes Pecans

The Friends of Our Native Wild Life and their guests enjoyed the novelty of a native American dinner as well as the quality of the items of food themselves. To most of the diners the history of the cultivated crops originating in the New World was new and interesting. So far as known this is the first time a native American banquet has been conceived and accomplished.

ON KILLING ANIMALS

Men will return again with renewed interest to the animal world. In these disordered days a stupid, uncontrollable massacre of animal species goes on—from certain angles of vision it is a thing almost more tragic than human miseries. In the nineteenth century dozens of animal species, and some of them very interesting species, were exterminated, but one of the first fruits of an effective world state would be the better protection of what are now wild beasts. It is a strange thing in human history to note how little has been done since the Bronze Age in taming, using, befriending and appreciating the animal life about us. But that mere witless killing which is called sport today would inevitably give place in a better educated world community to a modification of the primitive instincts that find expression in this way, changing them into an interest not in the deaths, but in the lives of beasts, and leading to fresh and perhaps very beautiful attempts to befriend these pathetic, kindred lower creatures we no longer fear as enemies, hate as rivals, or need as slaves.

—H. G. Wells in "The Outline of History."

Dangers Attending the Overthrow of the Balance of Nature

In an article by A. S. Watt "On the Causes of Failure of Natural Regeneration in British Oakwoods," published in The Journal of Ecology, Vol. VII, Nos. 3 and 4, November, 1919, pp. 173-203, he makes a quotation as follows from "The Kingdom of Man," by Lankester:

"Man, by upsetting the balance of nature and assuming control of what directly affected his own interests, is now paying the penalty in other ways, and must, having killed or suppressed the controllers, either assume total control himself, or assist in such by a judicious encouragement of those animals he once considered his inveterate foes. 'Civilized man has proceeded so far in his interference with extra-human nature, has produced for himself and the living organisms associated with him such a special state of things by his rebellion against natural selection, and his defiance of Nature's pre-human dispositions, that he must either go on and acquire firmer control of the conditions or perish miserably by the vengeance certain to fall on the half-hearted meddler in great affairs.'"

PROTECTION OF NATIVE PLANTS

There is a real danger that many of our most interestiing and beautiful wild flowers may be exterminated by heedless and indiscriminate plucking. Our love of beauty should induce us to be moderate and to pluck few flowers instead of many, and to refrain from breaking off large branches of flowering shrubs which have taken many years to grow, but which if broken off will last but a few hours—years of Nature's patient work wasted in a moment by man's destructiveness.

The Friends of Our Native Wild Life would earnestly urge all persons to use:

1. MODERATION. Do not pick all that you find. If you find but few then pick none. If the species is to continue many flowers must be left to develop seeds for future plants. Indian parents taught their children to spare the flowers, for, they said, "If the flowers are all plucked there will be no flower babies; and if there be no flower babies, then the flower tribes will die out. The Master of Life has placed the flower tribes in the world as well as the tribes of men, and all have their proper place. The world and all the tribes in it, of flowers and of men, can be happy only when each tribe is flourishing in its own place." Surely we ought to have as much common sense and as much consideration and fine feeling as Indians, whom we have called "savages."

2. CARE. When a flower is plucked be careful never to pull up or disturb the root. The roots are of no use in your bouquet, and their destruction means the extinction of the plant.

3. JUDGMENT. Some species of flowers, such as wild roses, asters, and golden-rod, may be picked without harm or danger to the plant. Other species, such as the Moccasin-flower, the Flame Lily of the prairie, and some other species, are almost certainly destroyed if the flower is plucked. Do not pick flowers which will only wither before you reach home, and do not pick great quantities of any kind of flowers. Remember always when you pick a flower that you are taking life; and you know you cannot restore life even if you can destroy it.

When you see a weedy field or a barren roadside try always to visualize the beauty which it once had before it was spoiled by men. And remember that in many cases that beauty might still be present but for someone's thoughtless or wicked waste.

THE COUNTRY

There is a lesson in each flower,
A story in each stream and bower;
On every herb o'er which you tread
Are written words which, rightly read,
Will lead you from earth's fragrant sod
To hope, and holiness, and God.

—Allen Cunningham, the stone-mason poet of Scotland, 1784-1842.

"The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours."

—William Wadsworth.

Folklore Concerning the Meadowlark

The meadowlark is a great favorite with the people of the Dakota nation. An old man of that nation was asked if his people ever used the meadowlark for food. He said they did not. When it was said that white men sometimes eat them, he said he knew that. Then, when asked why Dakotas would not eat the meadowlark, he said, "We think too much of them. They are our friends." They call the meadowlark "the bird of promise," and "the bird of many gifts," for they say it promises good things to its friends, the Dakotas. They apply words of the Dakota language to the songs of the bird. They say it calls to the people with promises and words of counsel and advice on all manner of subjects, and with words of encouragement and good cheer. One of the things which it used to sing out to the people was "Koda, pte kizhozho," i. e., "Friends, I whistle for the buffalo," that is to say, it would whistle to call the buffalo in order that its friends, the Dakotas, might supply their needs of meat and clothing.

The white people speak of the United States government as "Uncle Sam," but the people of the Dakota nation call the government "Tunkashila," which means "Grandfather." In the summer of 1918, while the United States was at war with Germany, many of the Dakotas said they heard "the bird of promise" singing "Tunkashila ohiyelo!" "Ohiyelo" means "will be victorious" or "will have victory"; so the meadowlark, "the bird of promise," was singing to them "the United States will have the victory!"

—Melvin Randolph Gilmore, July 22, 1921.

Who Owns the Mountains

A chapter in Van Dyke's volume, "Fisherman's Luck," page 204.

"What is property after all? The law says there are two kinds, real and personal. But it seems to me that the only real property is that which is truly personal, that which we take into our inner life and make our own forever, by understanding and admiration and sympathy and love. This is the only kind of possession which is worth anything. * * * What does it profit a man to be the landed proprietor of countless acres unless he can reap the harvest of delight that blooms from every rood of God's earth for the seeing eye and the loving spirit? And who can reap that harvest so closely that there shall not be abundant gleaning left for all mankind? The most that a wide estate can yield to its legal owner is a living. But the real owner can gather from a field of goldenrod, shining in the August sunlight, an unearned increment of delight. * * * We measure success by accumulation. The measure is false. The true measure is appreciation. He who loves most has most."

"The man
Who saves his brother man is he who lives
His life with Nature, takes deep hold on truth,
And trusts in God."

—Henry Van Dyke.

THE CHICKADEE

The Chickadee is a very popular bird among all the Indian tribes where it is known. They all have many stories and sayings about it. They say of it, that, though small, it is a very wise bird. It is like the wise men, the doctors and teachers among the people, who are learned in mysteries and the wonderful things of nature, who keep a calendar of the cycle of the days, months and seasons through the year by cutting marks upon a piece of wood which they have prepared for that purpose.

This wise little bird is said also to keep account of the months. It is said that "in the beginning" the task of keeping account of the months was assigned to the chickadee. But instead of making notches in a piece of wood as the wise men do, this wise bird's method is to make notches in its tongue; thus in September its tongue is single-pointed, in October it has two points, in November three, and so on until in February it is said that its tongue has six points. Then in March its tongue is again single-pointed and the count is begun again. So, it is said, the chickadee has been keeping the count of the months since the long ago, in the dim past, when the task was assigned to it in the time of beginnings, in the time when the evil powers and monsters struggled mightily to overcome the good, and to destroy mankind by sending fierce storms and heavy snowfalls and shuddering cold winds upon the face of the earth. It was thus the evil powers sought to discourage and to overcome mankind.

And so it is said that at one time the evil powers supposed that by stress of a long siege of cold and storms they had reduced mankind to famine. At this time they chose to send the chickadee as a messenger to find out the conditions and to bring back word to them.

Now when the chickadee came on his mission and appeared at the dwellings of men he was invited to enter. He was courteously given a place by the fireside to rest and warm himself. Then food was brought to him. After he had eaten and refreshed himself he was anointed with fat, which was a symbol of plenty; then he was painted with red paint, which was for a symbol of the power and mystery of life. After these ceremonies and marks of respect his hosts quietly composed themselves to give attention to whatever their visitor should have to say as to the purpose of his visit. When he had stated his mission his hosts held counsel and formulated a reply for the messenger to take back to those who had sent him. He was bidden to say to them that mankind was still living and hopeful, and they ever would be; that they could not be daunted by discouragement, nor defeated by storms and stress, nor vanquished by hunger, nor overcome by any hardships; and that there never would be a time when there should not be men upon the earth. So this is the message which the chickadee brought to the evil powers which had sought to overcome mankind.

—Melvin Randolph Gilmore.

Immigration of Bird Species

If one stops to consider the matter one must realize that every species of living thing, plant or animal, has come to occupy the present space of its range by expansion from a more limited area originally. In the case of some species a remarkable extension of range has been observed within a comparatively few years. Notably the range of the robin has been greatly

extended in the prairie states since groves have been planted in the country, and parks and parkways in towns have been planted to trees.

In the spring of 1921 a pair of Scissor-tailed Fly-catchers nested at Lincoln, Nebraska. This bird, sometimes called "Texan Bird-of-Paradise," ranges from southern Texas to southern Kansas, and has hitherto been unknown farther north than that.

A very common bird of the valleys of the Ohio, Mississippi and lower Missouri is the Dickcissel, or Black-throated Bunting. It has not been known in the valley of the Upper Missouri River as a regular resident, although common in the valley of the James River at least as far north as the upper Pipestem and James Rivers. In the summer of 1920 Mr. Roy M. Langdon reported having seen one individual of this species in the Missouri "bottom" south of Bismarck. Now, in the summer of 1921, the Dickcissel has appeared in considerable numbers in the valley of Apple Creek, east of Bismarck, and in the valley of Burnt Creek north of Bismarck. Hence it would seem that the Dickcissel is now extending his range, moving in and settling in territory new to his species.

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HISTORY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE SOCIETY

NATIVE LIFE

Bulletin of the Society of
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MELVIN R. GILMORE, Editor
RUSSELL REID, Business Manager

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EDITORIAL

We are grateful to our kind friends for the words of appreciation which have come to us, of the first issue of "Native Life." Iowa Conservation, published at Iowa City, Iowa, said of it: "The modest little bulletin is the organ of "The Friends of Our Native Wild Life," whose rallying center is Bismarck, and is packed with good things, embracing various lines of investigation and study in which all nature lovers are interested. Our most friendly greetings are extended to our enterprising friends in North Dakota, hoping that they will quickly multiply a hundred fold."

* * * * *

Through an oversight the date and place of publication of our first issue of Native Life were omitted. It should have been stated that the place was Bismarck, North Dakota, and the date was August 3, 1921.

* * * * *

It may not be known to all of our readers that there was established in the summer of 1920, at McGregor, Iowa, an institution for the study and appreciation and enjoyment of nature, called The American School of Wild Life. This is a regular school of outdoor life and beauty, and is under instruction of some of the ablest professors of sciences dealing with various phases of outdoor life and interest. Some of its courses are in native life of plants, birds, mammals, fishes, and other forms of life; with the rocks and soil formations and the forests and prairies and marshes. Such a school is certain to do much good and similar schools should be established in other places. A pleasant summer camp in our own Pembina Mountains, Turtle Mountains, Killdeer Mountains, or at some suitable situation on the course of the Missouri River, or on Spiritwood Lake, or other good locations, might be made very pleasurable and profitable if planned and organized for a few days or a week of recreation, of real re-creation, of renewing a right spirit within us and of attuning us to the harmony of the universe.

Beaver Farming for North Dakota

By VERNON BAILEY

(Chief Field Naturalist, U. S. Biological Survey)

The beavers induced the coming of the first white men into what is now North Dakota. They yielded the first golden harvest of the state-to-be. They decided the fact of the possession of the future North Dakota by the United States of America instead of by Great Britain.

But today the beavers are gone and almost forgotten in most of their old haunts, though even in well-tilled North Dakota their old haunts still remain mostly unchanged. They are waste land that could well be given back to the beavers.

Does the beaver do damage? Yes; so do your neighbor's pigs if turned out to rustle. Your own pigs are kept where they belong. Why not the beavers? Because they are treated as game instead of property. As game is the beaver a success? This fur is valuable; but who gets it? A few poachers.

As private property, large numbers of beavers could be raised in North Dakota with profit and pleasure. And it would be well to have more pleasure combined with our profit. Why not change the laws so as to make beaver farming possible? Then we could learn to raise them on private land as private property; to fence and control and market them as other live stock, to select the best for breeding, improve the color and fur, so adding to its value, and build up a new industry for the waste places, while providing a source of supply for future generations.

Queer Habit of the Hoyt's Horned Lark

By RUSSELL REID

During the past few years I have been much interested and puzzled in a queer habit of the Hoyt's Horned Lark (Otocoris a. hoyti) in the winter months. I hear them flying over the city of Bismarck at night. Although I have seen them almost any night I tried to, they seem to be more numerous on stormy nights, especially when it is snowing. I first recognized them by their call notes, which can be very plainly heard. This phenomena cannot be migration, as I have heard them in every month of the winter. They do not seem to fly in any general direction, and are just as apt to fly north as south. By following their call notes I have found that they often fly in aimless circles. On January 18, 1920, we had a light fall of snow and the air seemed to be full of horned larks. Quite a number of my friends have heard them after their attention was called to the habit. I cannot think of any reason why the birds should act in this manner.

More Indian Folk Lore of Birds

By DR. GEORGE BIRD GRINNEL

The notes on bird and animal folklore in the first number of Native Life are suggestive and call to mind other references that I may note.

The meadowlark, so abundant and conspicuous on the plains, is often spoken of and its song given a meaning. Thus the Cheyennes say that when it returns from the south in the spring its song is, "Witaniyohe nanheuhkt." This means "I have come from Tallow River," which is the name by which the Cheyennes designate the South Platte River.

The Blackfeet and the Cheyennes alike think that the chickadee counts the months on his tongue. They say that if, in spring, you open the mouth of the chickadee and lift up his tongue, you will find under the tongue five other tongues, one for each month of the winter.

Dr. Frederick A. Lucas, Director of the American Museum of Natural History, an authority on the tongues of birds, once wrote me that while the Blackfoot belief is not quite exact as a matter of scientific fact, it was actually based on the structure of the chickadee's tongue. He wrote: "The tongue in *Parus* is a little four-tined pitchfork, the tines growing out from the under side of the tip of the tongue. To anyone opening the bird's mouth and looking in, those tines would seem to lie just under the tongue. While the tines are four in number, they are often split and one might imagine five."

The Blackfeet call the chickadee "neo po muki," which is in imitation of the sound of the birds cry. And these Blackfoot words mean "Summer is coming." The Cheyennes also name the chickadee in imitation of its cry, and they call it "Meh a nev." And in the Cheyenne language these words mean "Summer is coming."

Many of the Blackfeet believe that the coot or mud hen (*Fulica*), is carried into the country in the spring from the south, and in the fall is carried away again by the sandhill cranes in their migration; and they say, too, that the sora rail is carried to and fro by the geese and the cranes. Thirty or forty years ago Dr. J. C. Merrill, a good ornithologist, told the story of the "crane's-back," described to him by the Crow Indians; but he was never able to identify the bird. Later, quite by accident, I found among the Blackfeet the bird they said was carried by the cranes and geese as they fly north and south.

Bringing Native Plants Into Cultivation

By GEORGE F. WILL

In connection with our nursery business we have during the past four or five years become concerned with the necessity for a more varied selection of ornamental plants and shrubs and useful fruits for our Northern Great Plains region.

A happy solution for this problem seems to be the adoption into cultivation of the many beautiful and valuable, but little known, plants which are native to North Dakota and the northern plains generally. For adaptation the native plants divide roughly into four groups. These are: herbaceous flowering perennials, ornamental shrubs, fruits, and

shade trees. In the present paper will be discussed only the ornamental perennials native to the region.

In the field of herbaceous flowering perennials our prairies are perhaps as rich as any region in the world; but the prairies are so wide and our thoughts so seldom upon our natural surroundings, that very few of us realize this fact. We have interesting plants for nearly all the year, beginning with the Pasque Flower in early April, a plant which we find responds readily to cultivation. A little later come the violets of which we have grown the white violets of the shaded coulees and river woods, the round leaved blue meadow violet, and the yellow violet of the hills. In June we have the beautiful anemone which is very readily cultivated. Then for dry locations we have the *Yucca glauca* and the Prickly Pear cactus of our river bluffs and buttes.

In July the earliest species of golden rod begin to bloom; there are many kinds native to our state, of which we are now growing two sorts. With the gold comes the purple—the *Amorpha canescens* or lead plant, the *Amorpha fruticosa* and the low and tall blazing stars all respond readily to cultivation.

In August the asters commence and continue to bloom into October. Of these the low growing blue aster of the higher ground has given unexpectedly beautiful results. The tall growing blue aster of the lower ground and the boltonia both respond well to cultivation. With the asters we get the many flowered Maximilian's sunflower of the lower ground. This also responds well and is already much used in the east.

The list as given contains only a few from the hundreds of natve flowering perennials which may be and will in the future be brought into cultivation for the beautifying of our homes and public grounds with plants which are at home, are suited to the country, and are unsurpassed in beauty by those of any other region.

SNOW BIRDS

Saucy, fluttering, scrambling things,
Soaring on your gray-brown wings,
Touched with white to match the snow,
Careless of the winds that blow:
Snow birds.

How you cheer the traveler's way,
Chattering in the snow so gay—
Almost make a fellow glad
That the weather is so bad,
Snow birds.

Prairie roads are not so long,
Livened with a snatch of song
As you sweep through the frosty air,
Helping us defy our care,
Snow birds.

God must love this chilly north,
Since He sends you bravely forth,
Tiny messengers of hope
O'er the prairies' leaden scope,
Snow birds.

—Florence H. Davis, Bismarck, N. D

Winter Birds of Bismarck, North Dakota

By RUSSELL REID

So many bird students have asked me what birds winter about Bismarck that I have written this list in answer to their questions, and with the hope that they will take interest in trying to add other species

I do not claim that this list is complete, as I have not had the time to make sufficient observations myself and I do not believe another list of this kind has been published. Two well known winter birds, the snow bunting and the snowy owl, are purposely omitted, for while I have seen them in other sections of the state, never in the vicinity of Bismarck. Only those that can be truly called winter birds are included. The fact that the robin and the northern flicker have been observed at Bismarck during December does not mean that they are winter birds. Such occurrences are extremely rare and are usually due to abnormal weather conditions.

Careful observations during the winter months would doubtless add several species to this list.

Tympanuchus a. americanus. Prairie Chicken.—Not common in the immediate vicinity of Bismarck. It is the predominating grouse about twenty miles east of Bismarck.

Pedioecetes p. campestris. Prairie Sharp-tail Grouse.—Common; usually found in the brush along the small creeks and coulees. It is not distinguished from the true Prairie Chicken (T. a. americanus) by most sportsmen.

Archibuteo l. sancti-johannis. Rough-legged Hawk—Not common; a pair wintered on Hay Creek last year (1920).

Archibuteo ferrugineus. Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk—Not common.

Otus a. asio. Screech Owl—Have seen a few birds in winter, but it is rare over the whole of North Dakota.

Drybates v. leucomelas. Northern Hairy Woodpecker—Frequent; observed during all the winter months.

Drybates p. medianus. Downy Woodpecker—Common during mild winters; otherwise rare.

Otocoris a. hoyti. Hoyt's Horned Lark—Frequent during the winter months.

Otocoris a. enthymia. Saskatchewan Horned Lark—Abundant in the fall and late winter. A few are probably with us throughout year.

Pica p. hudsonia. Magpie—The most noticeable of all our winter birds. It is far too common, and seems to be on the increase.

*Cyanocitta c. cristata. Blue Jay—Rare in winter.

Acanthus l. linaria. Redpoll.—Abundant in November and early December but becoming rare during the colder months.

Bombycilla garrula. Bohemian Waxwing—Frequent; common some winters and rare in others. They were very common during the winter of 1919-1920.

Penthestes a. septentrionalis. Long-tailed Chicakdee—Common in the

woods along the Missouri River. Sometimes seen in the city of Bismarck.

It may be well to mention those that might be added to this list: Gray Gyrfalcon, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, and the Snow Bunting. It might be of interest to add the non-winter birds that have been seen here during November and December: Mallard Duck, Northern Flicker, Western Meadowlark, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, and the Robin.

*Cyanocitta c. cristata. It may be well to say in this connection that the bluejay appears to be a comparatively recent immigrant into this region. Old people of the Mandans, Arikaras, and also of the Dakotas, while familiar with most of the native species of birds, seem to be unfamiliar with the bluejay. When shown a specimen of this bird they have asked what it was; it was strange to them. This is consistent with the phenomena mentioned in the item on "Immigration of Bird Species" in the first number of Native Life.—Editor.

Studying Small Mammals

By VERNON BAILEY

(Chief Field Naturalist of U. S. Biological Survey)

Why do we know so little of the small native animals around us? Mainly for two reasons: These little wild creatures are largely nocturnal, and they are very shy and secretive in their habits. Many have their homes underground or under the grass and weeds and bushes, and come out only when we are asleep. Even their colors protect them from our observation, and it takes much skill and patience to find them and observe their habits. To those who have the skill and patience, however, the small and little known animals offer most attractive field for study.

Some species are very destructive to crops, trees or poultry; others are useful in destroying insect pests or weed seeds, or are valuable for food or fur. So this study has a practical relation to our lives.

Moreover, these little warm-blooded animals that nurse their young are related to us, as we, too, are included in the great class Mammalia. In a way they are cousins of ours, somewhat distant, but in their own different spheres, highly specialized, intelligent, savage or affectionate, timid or bold, and well worth a better acquaintance.

Of the small mammals the squirrel family is perhaps the best known, because its members are mostly diurnal, sleeping nights and working days as we do, so we often see and learn to know them at a distance. The flying squirrels are exceptions to this rule, as they work nights and sleep days, so are rarely seen. The other North Dakota members of

the family are the gray and red squirrels, three specimens of chipmunks, three ground squirrels, prairie dogs and woodchucks. Any of these may be watched where they occur, and even tamed by feeding and carefully letting them know that you will not hurt them. Slow and quiet movements and a soft voice are necessary in dealing with these shy, wild people, and it may take days or weeks to win their confidence, but patience and skill will work wonders, and once tamed they make not only interesting pets, but friends to be proud of. Even the destructive little flickertail makes a delightful pet if tamed while young.

The little night workers, vulgarly called rats and mice, but including many families of animals as different as horses and cows, and sheep and deer and pigs, are not so easily studied. In most cases it is necessary to catch and cage them until they are tame enough to be handled and their confidence gradually gained. Even so, the trouble is well repaid—strange and surprising habits are learned and many startling discoveries are made.

Comfortable and attractive cages, where the little animals can feel at home while under observation, may also tax the skill of the student of animals, but skill and ingenuity are necessary for such studies, and nothing should be considered too difficult.

Simple little traps made of tin cans, boxes or wire mesh, for catching animals alive, can be made by any boy with average dexterity of fingers and inventiveness of mind. But many animals may be picked up under grain stacks or hay cocks, or old logs or boards, or dug out of holes in the ground. With practice one is able to catch and handle animals without injury to himself or them. While some will bite severely, others make no effort towards self-defense. Without gentle handling and careful, symapthetic care, nothing will be gained and little learned of animals. Some will escape, but usually not until they have yielded up secrets that perhaps no one else has discovered. The study is fascinating as one gets into it.

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Read April 10, 1922

EDITORIALS

Water Farming

Dr. E. W. Nelson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, has made a report in which he has called attention to the importance of conservation of inland lakes and marshes as a valuable public asset. Among other things he says:

"The mistaken idea is prevalent that the drainage of almost any area is a benefit to the community. Under proper conditions "water farming" of many lakes and ponds and of swamp or marsh areas will yield a distinctly larger return than would the same area drained and used for agriculture. Under intelligent management these areas will yield abundant and varied returns to the community.

I believe that a careful survey of the water and marsh areas in any state by men properly versed in the plant and animal products, as well as of the agricultural capacities of the areas in question, will result in the great majority of cases in definitely determining the superior value to the state of such water areas in the natural conditions as against the value of the lands which would be left after they had been drained. Furthermore, the existence of these areas in the state adds greatly to the varied character of the region where located and thus renders them more generally attractive as places of residence for the citizens."

Resolution Against Planting Exotics

At the Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, December 29, 1921, the Council adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, one of the primary duties of the National Park Service is to pass on to future generations, for scientific study and education, natural areas on which the native flora and fauna may be found undisturbed by outside agencies;

WHEREAS, the planting of non-native trees, shrubs or other plants, the stocking of waters with non-native fish or the liberating of game animals not native to the region impairs or destroys the natural conditions and native wilderness of the parks;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Association for the Advancement of Science strongly opposes the introduction of non-native plants and animals into the National Parks, and all other unessential interference with natural conditions, and urges the National Park Service to prohibit all such introductions and interference.

The National Parks Association

From time to time we have heard of the efforts of persons actuated by selfish interests to obtain concessions for irrigation projects and other schemes for enriching themselves by exploitation of the National Parks. The people of the whole country are coming awake to the real and continual menace which exists in the cunning and persistent efforts of these unscrupulous schemers who frequently have senators and congressmen as their tools to work for their interests in Congress.

One of the useful agencies for watching and combatting the predatory and destructive schemes of these would-be marauders of scenic beauties and scientific values of the National Parks is a voluntary organization

called the National Parks Association, which all persons interested in saving the national parks are invited to join. The address of the National Parks Association is 1512 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. All members receive the publications of the Association, containing information concerning national parks development, movements in and out of Congress affecting national parks and conservation of native wild life, progress of the commercial war to invade national parks, new park and wild life reservation projects and all activities of the Association.

It issues beautifully illustrated popular reports on national park and native wild life subjects and the origin and meaning of scenic features. It furnishes members special information on request or refers them to reliable sources.

In many other ways it serves the interests of outdoor lovers. Anyone wishing to know more about the Association may be informed by addressing the office of the Association as given above.

The Message of the Pasque Flower to the Dakota Nation

This is the translation by Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore from a piece of original folklore written in the Dakota language by Mr. Thomas P. Ashley, of Cannonball, North Dakota, December, 1921.

Among Dakotas, and other Indian nations as well, it is a mark of the very highest respect to address one as grandmother or grandfather. It is in accordance with this idea that the Pasque Flower is represented as speaking in the character of grandparent, addressing its human auditors as grandchild. Thus the flower speaks to the people of the human race as follows:

"I have been trying always to encourage you children of the human race in all generations by showing you and telling you that spring is here, and that the buffalo will increase, and now your parents will prepare to go on the buffalo hunt so that you shall have plenty of food and good clothing.

Now I have come out first of all the flower people so that the Dakota children can pick me up and kiss me and play with me; and little boys will know that it is time to practise shooting with the arrow. Then, after I have first come, all the other flower people come out dressed in bright colours, showing themselves so charming and so delightful, and they make the earth look so beautiful and joyous and smell so fragrant. And then, too, all the beasts of the forest and of the prairie are putting off their old, shaggy winter coats and are putting on their new and beautiful summer coats, and are growing fat and hearty and ready to become the necessary flesh food for human beings. The birds also are dropping their dull winter plumage and are putting on their bright spring plumage, and they begin to tune their voices to sing enchantingly for all the world.

And amid all these scenes of returning life and beauty I shall be standing among them old and gray and about to die, for my life was largely spent before they came upon the scene. Now, my grandchild, this is an example for you, to show you that you, too, must become old and gray, and, dying, shall pass on to the next happy land, where your ancestors have opened the road before you. You look for them and miss them here below, for they have gone; but you shall meet them there above when you yourself shall go there bye and bye. Remember me to all that generation which follows after you. Tell them that you saw me. I shall return again in early springtime, so I shall speak my message to generation after generation, even to all generations."

List of Publications of the Flora and Fauna of North Dakota

RUSSELL REID and O. A. STEVENS

MAMMALOGY

Bailey, Vernon, Bell, W. B., and Brannon, M. A. Preliminary report on the mammals of North Dakota. N. D. Exp. Station Circular 3, pp. 20, December, 1914.

Identity of the bean mouse of Lewis and Clark. Jour. of Mammalogy. Vol. 1, No. 2, February, 1920, pp. 70-72.

Report on the mammals of North Dakota. Not yet published.

Bell, W. B., and Piper, S. E. Extermination of ground-squirrels, gophers and prairie dogs in North Dakota. N. D. Exp. Sta. Circ. 4 rev. ed. pp. 1-11, 1 pl. and 6 figs. 1917.

Taylor, Joseph Henry. Beavers and their ways. Published by the author at Washburn, N. D., 1904.

ORNITHOLOGY

Bailey, Florence Merriam. Characteristic Birds of the North Dakota Prairies. The Condor, XVII, pp. 172, 222, 1915; XVIII, pp. 14, 54, 1916. A return to the Dakota lake region. The Condor, vols. 20-22, 1918-1920.

Bent, A. C. Nesting habits of the anatidae in North Dakota. The Auk, vol. XVIII, p. 328, 1901; vol. XIX, p. 165, 1902.

Bell, W. B. Guide to North Dakota bird study. The Extension, vol. 6. No. 2, pp. 1-32, 1912.

Coues, Elliot. Notes on two little-known birds of the United States. American Naturalist, 1873. Contains accounts of the Baird's sparrow and the Sprague's pipit in northern North Dakota.

Coues, Elliot. Field notes on birds obesrved in North Dakota and Montana along the 49th parallel during the seasons 1873-1874. Bulletin of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, vol. IV, No. 3, pp. 545-662, July 29, 1878.

Freeman, Daniel. A bird calendar of the Fargo region. Fargo College Bulletin, vol. XV, No. 1, April, 1919.

Hoffman, W. J. List of birds observed at Fort Berthold, D. T., during the month of September, 1881. Proc. of the Boston Soc. of Natural History, pp. 397-405. February 1, 1882.

Job, Herbert K. The Enchanted Isles. The Osprey, vol. 3, p. 37, 1898. Among the waterfowl. Doubleday, Page & Co., 1903.

Judd, Elmer T. List of North Dakota birds found in the Big Coulee, Turtle Mountain, and Devils Lake region. Published by the author at Cando, N. D., 1917.

McChesney, C. E. Birds of the Coteau Des Prairies of eastern Dakota. Forest and Stream, vol. VIII, pp. 176, 177, 192, 224, 225, 241, 242, 261; 102 species.

Oberholser, H. C. The great plains waterfowl breeding grounds and their protection. Yearbook U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1917 (also in separates).

Schmidt, C. C. List of birds that have been obesrved in North Dakota. Issued by the Dept. of Public Instruction, April 15, 1904.

Wood, Norman A. Report on the birds of North Dakota. Not yet published.

HERPETOLOGY

Coues, Elliot and Yarrow, H. C. Notes on the herpetology of Dakota and Montana. Bulletin U. S. Geological Survey, 1874, pp. 259-291.

ICHTHYOLOGY

Pope, Thomas E. B. Devils Lake, North Dakota, a study of the physical and biological conditions with a view to the acclimatization of fish. Bureau of Fisheries, Document No. 634, 1908.

ENTOMOLOGY

Bell, W. B. The coleoptera of Williams county. Fourth Bienn. Report. North Dakota State Agricultural College Survey (1907-08) pp. 17-27, 1908.

Stevens, O. A. Preliminary list of North Dakota wasps, exclusive of Eumenidae. Ent. News 28; pp. 419-423, 1917.

The panurgine bees of North Dakota and a new Epeolus. Can. Ent. 51: pp. 205-210, 1919.

Further notes on evening flowers, panurgine and halictine bees. Can. Ent. 53: pp. 65-69, 1921.

BOTANY

Bell, W. B. Native plants of Williams County. Third Bienn. Rept. North Dakota State Agri. Coll. Surv. (1905-06), pp. 126-132, 1906.

Report on the biological survey of North Dakota with list and discussion of the plants of the Williston area of Williams county, N. D. Fourth Bienn. Report North Dakota State Agri. Coll. Surv. (1907-08), pp. 28-51, 1908. (Also in Exp. Sta. 18 Ann. Rept. pp. 53-75, 1908.)

Report on the plant survey of the Morton county area in Morton county, N. D. Fifth Bienn. Rept. N. Dak. State Agri. Coll. Surv. (1909-10), pp. 34-60, 1910.

Bergman, H. F. Report on the plant survey of Barnes County, Sixth Bienn. Rept. N. Dak. State Agri. Coll. Surv. (1911-12), pp. 121-150, 1918.

Flora of North Dakota. Sixth Bienn. Rept. N. Dak. State Agri. Coll. Survey (1911-12), pp. 151-372 and index, 1918.

Bolley, H. L. and Waldron, L. R. A preliminary list of the spermatophyta (seed-bearing) plants of North Dakota. N. D. Exp. Sta. Bulletin, 46, pp. 591-681, 1900.

Brenckle, J. F. North Dakota Fungi. Mycologia 9, pp. 275-293, 1917: 10, pp. 199-221, 1918.

Checkering, J. W. Phoenogamous and vascular cryptogamous plants collected in Dakota and Montana in 1873-73, p. 30, 1878.

Gilmore, Melvin R. List of trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceeous flowering plants and grasses native to North Dakota and suitable and desirable for use in planting of parks. Collections of the State Historical Society, vol. 6, 1920 (also as separates).

Plant relations in North Dakota. University of North Dakota, Extension Division Bulletin No. 28, vol. V, No. 2, Feb. 1921.

Lunell, J. Enumerantur Plantae Dakotae Septentrionalis. The vascular plants of North Dakota. Amer. Mid. Nat., vols. 4-6, 1915-18.

Metcalf, F. P. Notes on North Dakota plants. Jour. of the Wash. Academy of Sciences. Vol. X, No. 7, April 4, 1920. (Also as a reprint.)

Pfaender, Max. Fruit growing on the northern great plains. U. S. Dept. of Agri. Circular 58; September, 1919.

Seaver, F. J. Fungi (short list of). Rept. of Bot. Dept., 18 Ann. Rept. N. Dak. Exp. Sta. (1907), pp. 48-53, 1908

Stevens, O. A. Key to North Dakota weeds. The Extension, vol. 8, pp. 1-32, 1914.

The geographical distribution of North Dakota plants. Amer. Jour. Bot. 7: pp. 223-230, 1920. (Short popular account with the same title in College and State, 4:) pp. 3-4, 1920.

Plants of Fargo, N. D., with dates of flowering. Amer. Mid. Nat., vol. 7, 1921.

The Turtle Mountains of North Dakota. American Botanist, vol. 28, pp. 9-14.

Waldron, L. R. Plant collections new to the state in the herbarium. Seventh Bienn. Rept. N. D. Agri. Coll. and Exp. Sta., pp .74-80, 1904.

GENERAL

Allen, J. A. Notes on the natural history of portions of Dakota and Montana. Proc. of the Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist., vol. XVII, June, 1874.

Schmidt, C. C. Nature study and agriculture. D. C. Heath & Co., 1920.

Report on Sullys Hill Park. Dept. of the Interior, 1915.

North Dakota Arbor and Bird Day Annuals. Dept. of Public Instruction.

Biennial reports of the North Dakota Game and Fish Board.

A TREE

By Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry lips are pressed
Against the warm earth's flowing breast.

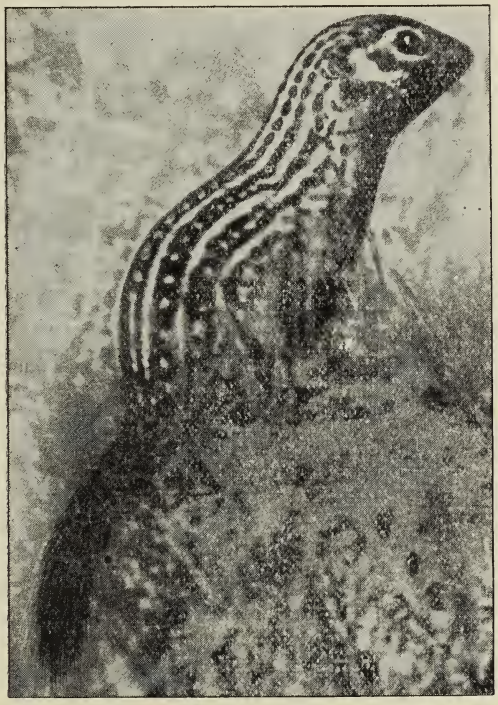
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts its leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may, in summer, wear
A nest of robins in its hair.

Upon whose breast the snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me—
But only God can make a tree.

The Flag Squirrel

By VERNON BAILEY

A prolonged bubbling, bird-like whistle from the prairie grass sounded far away but was really only a couple of rods from the road and we caught a glimpse of a slender-bodied little squirrel standing up straight as a stick in the grass. Just a glimpse showed his short ears, bright eyes and dry-grass-colored back, covered with narrow lines of dark brown, thirteen lines that give him several of his names, *Flag squirrel* from the thirteen stripes in the American Flag, *Thirteen-lined ground squirrel*, and its Latin equivalent in the scientific name, *Citellus tridecemlineatus*.



THE FLAG SQUIRREL
Photograph by Russell Reid

No wonder he was afraid of what man would do to him next, and with another bubbling trill darted to his burrow and disappeared under ground. I needed him however for a closer study of habits, so taking a spool of coarse thread from my pocket made a slip-noose in one end, laid it over the little round hole where he disappeared and unwinding the spool, backed off about fifty feet and sat down on the ground. In a pair of

minutes a pointed nose and black eye appeared in the burrow and then the whole head and shoulders popped up for a good look around. A quick pull on the thread and it was tight around his neck, he was drawn half way to meet me and dropped into a little bag, then into my pocket.

No, he didn't like it, but a few days later he escaped and is now probably living in that same old burrow, and still telling his relatives and friends how a great big man-bear roped him and shut him up in a soft burrow and then in a hard stick house that he couldn't bite and fed him many queer things, many things not fit for a squirrel to eat, but some good grains, and best of all, delicious grasshoppers and some crusty beetles and juicy caterpillars. These he ate with such a relish that, wishing to continue my observations on food habits, I needed more specimens, so cutting out the top of several tin cans and making swinging doors that opened in, and with a bit of shingle for a trigger under the edge of the door inside of the can and a big dead grasshopper pinned to the inner end of the trigger, placed the cans near the holes where other flag squirrels lived. With the triggers adjusted lightly under the doors and some rolled oats scattered in front of and into the cans, I soon caught all the squirrels needed. These were kept as long as I wanted them, and many of their secrets were learned. They were surprisingly gentle and after a few days were not afraid of me and would take food from my fingers.

Of all the food I gave them, grasshoppers were their favorite, and although these were so unusually numerous as to lay a heavy tribute on most crops, I could not catch enough to satisfy my few squirrels and had to subsidize some of the village children to bring paper bags full of grasshoppers at 5 cents a bag. Even then I never got enough to test out the number of grasshoppers one of these squirrels would eat in a day, because they would eat as long as the grasshoppers lasted and then want more.

I wondered if they were eating anything else out on the prairie where the grasshoppers swarmed over fields and in the grass, so shot a number at different times of day and examined their stomachs. Every one was stuffed full of grasshoppers without other food except a few beetles and other insects.

Thousands, yes millions, of these little squirrels are scattered over the prairies of North Dakota and other middle states from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains and from Texas to Alberta. At times they do serious damage to crops and in places it is necessary to destroy them, but at other times and in other places they do valuable service for the farmer and for all of us.

It pays to know our friends as well as our enemies in the outdoor world.

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